

Current Population Survey (CPS) & Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)

EXERCISES

Exercise 1: CPS Report

How many people were below the
official poverty line in 2010?

Exercise 1:

Answer

46.2 million people were
in poverty in 2010
(15.1 percent of the population)

Exercise 1:

Solution

- Go to Subjects A to Z
- Click 'P' – scroll down to 'Poverty'
- Center of page, under 'Latest Releases':
 - Select 'Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010 (P60-239)'
- Can find the statistic in a few places:
 - 'Press release' contains key findings
 - 'Highlights' contains bullet points of key findings
 - 'Report' contains text, figures, and tables (See page 14: 'Highlights' or Figure 4)

Exercise 2:

CPS Detailed Table Package

In 2010, what percentage of women were childless?

Exercise 2:

Answer

47.1% of women ages 15-44
had no children in 2010

(Only 18.8% of women
ages 40-44 had no children)

Exercise 2:

Solution

- Go to Subjects A to Z
- Click 'W' – scroll down to 'Women':
 - Select 'Fertility of American Women'
- Left side of page, under 'Quick Links':
 - Select 'CPS Data on Fertility'
- Fertility of American Women: 2010
- Detailed Tables
 - Table 1. Women by Number of Children Ever Born by Race, Hispanic Origin, Nativity Status, Marital Status, and Age: June 2010 (All Races)

Exercise 3:

CPS Historical Tables

True or false:

In 2010, a larger percentage of women than men had completed at least a high school education.

What about in 1990?

Exercise 3:

Answer

2010: True

87.6% of women and 86.6% of men
(Statistically different)

1990: False

77.5% of women and 77.7% of men
(Not statistically different)

Exercise 3:

Solution

- Go to Subjects A to Z
- Click 'E' – scroll down to 'Education':
 - Select 'Educational Attainment'
- Left side of page, under 'Quick Links':
 - Select 'CPS Data on Educational Attainment'
- Near the bottom, 'Historical Time Series Tables':
 - Table A-2. Percent of People 25 Years and Over Who Have Completed High School or College, by Race, Hispanic Origin and Sex: Selected Years 1940 to 2010

Exercise 4:

SIPP Table Package

In 2009, what percentage of adolescents (ages 12-17) ate dinner with a parent every day?

Exercise 4:

Answer

58.5% of adolescents had dinner with a parent every day in a typical week in 2009

Exercise 4:

Solution

- Go to Subjects A to Z
- Click 'C' – scroll down to 'Children':
 - Select 'Children'
- Center of page, under 'Latest Releases':
 - Select 'A Child's Day: 2009 (Selected Indicators of Child Well-Being)'
- Detailed Tables
 - Table D7. Daily Contact – Mealtimes with Child – Characteristics of Children Under 18 and Parents: 2009

Exercise 5: SIPP Report

What percentage of movers in 2004
changed residence during the
summer?

Exercise 5:

Answer

32.2% of movers in 2004 changed residence during the summer

Exercise 5:

Solution

- Go to Subjects A to Z
- Click 'G' – scroll down to 'Geographic Mobility/Migration'
- Left side of page, under 'Quick Links':
 - Select 'SIPP Data on Geographic Mobility/Migration'
- Seasonality of Moves and the Duration and Tenure of Residence: 2004 (P70-122)
 - Table 1 on Page 2